



YLI Fact Sheet

What is YLI?

Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) introduces, develops and nurtures leadership skills among high school sophomores and juniors in the greater Des Moines area by providing experiential mentoring and leadership experiences that enhance self-esteem and encourage involvement in all levels of community life.

YLI focuses on untapped potential. YLI seeks students who have not had the opportunity to demonstrate their full leadership potential. Candidates for the program should:

- 1) be entering their sophomore or junior years of high school
- 2) have an interest in developing their leadership skills
- 3) desire to learn more about the Greater Des Moines community



YLI believes local youth must see a community that is welcoming, nurturing, and vital and that provides ample opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community change, to network, and to grow as individuals. The YLI leadership development program is aimed at: helping youth learn the skills necessary to help create a community where they want to invest their futures; and developing committed leaders by encouraging community participation.

The goals of the YLI Program are:

- **EMPOWERING** youth to connect, participate in change, and create their ideal community
- **ENCOURAGING** youth to become active participants in their community
- **ENGAGING** youth in opportunities to invest their futures in the Greater Des Moines area

How do I apply?

Current high school freshmen and sophomores should apply prior to their respective sophomore and junior years. Applications are online at the Youth Leadership Initiative's website (www.youthleadershipdm.org), at the United Way of Central Iowa, or through area high schools and youth organizations. Class selection will be completed and announced by June 1st. Previous classes have included over thirty students from fourteen Des Moines area public and private high schools. Please note that due to a generous funding partnership with the United Way of Central Iowa and other donations, participation in the YLI Program is offered **TUITION FREE**.

2009-2010 Sample Program Schedule (dates subject to change)

May 21	7-8 PM	Orientation - parents & students	February 19	7:30 - 2:30	Law & Order
August 21-22	4 PM	Opening Overnight Retreat	February 22	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session
September 18	7:30 - 2:30	Community Engagement	March 5	7:30 - 2:30	Entrepreneurship
September 21	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session	March 8	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session
October 16	7:30 - 2:30	Greater Des Moines Leadership	April 23	7:30 - 2:30	Style & Class
October 19	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session	April 26	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session
November 13	7:30 - 2:30	Leadership Passions & Vision	May 14	7:30 - 2:30	Creative Problem Solving
November 16	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session	May 17	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session
December 11	7:30 - 2:30	The Arts	June		Student planned GRADUATION ceremony
January 18	7:30 - 2:30	Diversity			
January 25	5:30-7:45 PM	PROCESSING session			

Students who complete the YLI Program are also encouraged to participate in the Alumni Program. The Alumni Program offers additional opportunities for YLI graduates to continue connecting to the community and to each other. Past involvement has included serving the community through volunteer efforts as they determine, coordinate, and participate in service projects of their choosing. Alumni will also have the opportunity to serve on the YLI Selection Committee to assist in future student selection, and the Program Committee which oversees program planning.

For more information please see the YLI webpage (www.youthleadershipdm.org), search for us on Facebook, or contact:

- Tim Rittgers, YLI Program Director by phone at 262-5695 or by e-mail at director@youthleadershipdm.org
- Terri Jensen, Executive Committee Chair at terri.jensen@weitz.com